

CERT SAN DIEGO (COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM)



CERT Team Activation Procedures DRAFT 3-24-07 *Page 1 of 3*

CERT OFFICE (619) 533-3075 alternate: (619) 533-4332
CELL: (619) 980-3532 alternate: (619) 980-3508
Email: cert@sandiego.gov alternate: BGayers@sandiego.gov

HAM RADIO: Communicate with CERT San Diego net control via Amateur Radio 2M repeaters:
 Primary: 147.885 mhz (-) offset PL 107.2
 Secondary: 145.320 mhz (-) offset PL 107.2
 Tertiary: 147.195 mhz (+) offset PL 114.8
 OR the Otay Mt. repeater 147.885 mhz (-) offset PL 100.0

CITY OF SAN DIEGO WEBSITE: www.sandiego.gov Look for emergency updates
Fire-Rescue Radio/Television advisories: Listen for emergency updates and CERT activation

We appreciate the vital volunteer support of CERT San Diego graduates in communities throughout the City of San Diego. San Diego Fire-Rescue Department is currently formalizing CERT San Diego procedures, to clarify how and when CERT volunteers would activate and serve. All CERT San Diego volunteers are trained and serve SDFD (sponsoring agency) following the SDFD policies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's). Below is a draft of procedures for CERT San Diego volunteers to follow:

- In any CERT activation, The CERT San Diego Program office will serve as the first point of contact for CERT team leaders, volunteers, teams and Incident Team Leader, serving as a vital bridge to the Fire-Rescue Department at HQ. During any CERT activation, The CERT San Diego Program Manager serves as the SDFD CERT Liaison Officer, offering a central communications point for city-wide CERT Team Leaders, CERT Incident Leaders and ham operators, to organize and support activation and response. (Look for this CERT ICS structure- in chapter 1 of your CERT textbook, Chapter 1, Page 21.) The SDFD-CERT San Diego Liaison Office will contact CERT team leaders, hams and volunteers to assess conditions in CERT communities and discuss need for activation. Your leaders and/or hams should contact us immediately if a disaster or emergency event strikes your community and you're considering activation.
- In any SDFD request for volunteers, or CERT activation, we understand that all CERT volunteers may not be willing or available to serve. In disasters, CERT volunteers are advised to take care of home and family first; if needed, help their immediate neighbors; then perform a neighborhood size-up on the way to your CERT rally point. Here, CERT teams gather to share size up information with their CERT Team or Incident Leader (formerly called CERT IC). It is vital that these CERT Leaders communicate with the CERT Program office ASAP at this point to share size up information and discuss the need for activation or stand by status; initiate accountability and establish regular two way communications throughout any CERT activation.
- In a disaster, communications may be compromised. Have your team's ham radio operator assigned to your Team Leader, and open up two way communications with CERT San Diego. Check email and phones, if operable, for official updates. There may be a recording on the CERT phone or City website updating you with information. Also, listen to radio and TV for emergency updates from the City of San Diego, the Mayor or Fire Chief. *continued*

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- CERT San Diego volunteers have been trained to act within the scope of SDFD CERT training. They have taken an oath to support the guidelines, laws, policies and SOP's of CERT San Diego, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department and the City of San Diego. CERT San Diego certified volunteers in current standing are deputized to work as Disaster Service Workers (DSW's) by SDFD, working under County, State and Federal guidelines. The CERT Team role is to serve the community in a large regional disaster, when emergency services are overwhelmed; or when needed for training or as requested to support SDFD in CERT support roles.

CERT Team Activation Scenarios

Three scenarios would result in CERT San Diego full or limited activation:

in all scenarios, the CERT teams would establish two way communication with CERT Program Manager (Barbara Ayers) and the SDFD-CERT Liaison Office at Fire HQ or the Fire Support Center, which would serve as CERT Comm Central. It is our role to share your field observations, community and team needs and progress reports with SDFD, to ensure accountability for CERT volunteers and give direction to CERT Leaders from SDFD management at the Department Operation Center (DOC) and Incident Management Team (IMT).

During disasters, communications and power may be impacted. Check email and phones. The first you may hear about a disaster may be on TV or radio. Tune into a battery powered radio or turn on your car and listen to the car radio for alerts.

SCENARIO 1: MAJOR WIDE SPREAD REGIONAL DISASTER

Description:

Typically there is little or no advance notice; cell and land line phones and AC power may be impacted and unavailable-- ham and alternate communications are essential

- SDFD-CERT San Diego Liaison Team will proceed to the San Diego Fire Service Center and/or Fire HQ and will utilize all available communications to try to contact teams. CERT San Diego will contact team leaders and ham operators by phone, cell phone or email and ham channels to start activation and establish two way communications.
- Community teams may either be activated by CERT San Diego; or, in the event that your immediate community is affected by full scale disasters, CERT members shall meet at the CERT rally point to discuss size up with CERT San Diego. It is essential that teams notify CERT SD/SDFD to establish ongoing two way communications before activation and to stay in contact throughout the event.
- CERT teams will form in the ICS structure and serve their community, offering disaster aid, responsible to SDFD, adhering to CERT FEMA standards, CERT San Diego training and SDFD Standard Operating Procedures.
- CERT Teams should establish or utilize the assigned ham radio operator, assigned to Team or Incident Leader, to make contact and share vital information to CERT SD using the primary VHF repeater. CERT SD will be net control and will give/receive regular updates from all teams and SDFD. If all else fails, teams should post regular updates on poster boards in front of local fire stations- use your Battalion Office station if possible.

Continued

- It is critical that CERT San Diego coordinates team activities throughout CERT activation for SDFD. Two-way communication will aid City-wide operations. We may activate other CERT members or send SDFD staff or supplies to support your team.

SCENARIO 2: AN INCIDENT IMPACTING A LIMITED AREA OF THE CITY

Description:

Fire-Rescue Department is responding and may need logistics or admin CERT support. Short or long lead time possible. Phone and email communication is OK.

- Please note all activation steps in Scenario 1 above – however this scenario allows probable use of phones and power, allowing traditional communications in addition to ham operation. CERT San Diego will contact team leaders by phone, cell phone, email or hams, to put community teams and volunteers on an alert status or to activate them.
- Because this involves a localized impact area, we may be able to offer the affected CERT teams support from SDFD or other CERT communities. Hopefully roads and phones and power are operating. CERT Teams that activate due to a disaster in their immediate neighborhood, or that are considering activation for any reason, must notify CERT SD immediately and establish two-way communications throughout the activation. We will strategize how best to proceed and stay in constant contact.
- CERT San Diego will establish activation operations at CERT COMM Central at Fire HQ or Service Center. Teams will establish two way communications and have a ham operator monitoring the emergency communications VHF repeater. If all else fails, teams should post the latest updates on 4x4 poster boards at designated fire stations: fire battalion office in your district, is possible.

SCENARIO 3: CERT SAN DIEGO IS REQUESTED TO SUPPORT AN INCIDENT IN ANOTHER REGION OR TO SUPPORT EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGENCIES

Description: May not have immediate San Diego impact; longer lead time to respond, possible advance notice; phone and email is up and running

CERT San Diego will contact team leaders and members by phone, cell phone, or email to determine who is willing and available to help support first responder teams before, during and after deployment (i.e. San Diego Fire-Rescue staff, USAR-Urban Search and Rescue, Red Cross, FEMA, CA Citizens Corps, etc) to other areas. Occasionally a national or regional call up of CERT volunteers to other regions may occur. We will notify CERT volunteers as needs arise.

Ham radio communications will be utilized as needed.